

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicants' representative appreciates the Examiner taking the time to discuss this application in the telephone interview on February 9, 2005. As a result of the interview, Applicants' representative understands that the period for response expires on February 28, 2005, and that Applicants should disregard the language in paragraph 1 of the Official Action mailed January 31, 2005, with respect to the period for reply.

The remainder of this response is identical to Applicants' response of September 17, 2004.

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1-32 have been amended and are presented for the Examiner's consideration in view of the following comments.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-23 and 28-32 have been allowed.

With respect to the Drawings, the Examiner has noted that FIG. 3 is pale and that, therefore, it is difficult to view all the details of the figure. Applicants have submitted a replacement sheet 2, which includes FIGs. 2 and 3. No new matter has been added. Applicants submit that the copy of FIG. 3 on replacement sheet 2 is not pale and that the basis for the Examiner's objection has been removed.

With respect to the Abstract, the Examiner has objected to its format. Applicants have submitted a substitute Abstract, which removes the basis for the Examiner's objection. No new matter has been added.

With respect to the claims, the Examiner has objected to claims 24-27. Applicants have amended claims 24-27 to remove the basis for the Examiner's objection. In addition, and as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have amended claims 1-32 to better conform to U.S. practice.

As it is believed that all of the objections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If,

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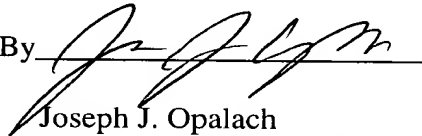
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this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' attorney in order to overcome any additional objections that the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 07-0832 therefor.

Respectfully submitted
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By



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Amendments to the Drawings

Please substitute the attached drawing sheet for FIGs. 2 and 3 for the corresponding figures currently on file with the application.

Attachment: Replacement drawing sheet for FIGs. 2 and 3.